Start the Adventure in Reading (Stairbirmingham.org)

**STAIR:** STAIR is an after-school reading program for 2nd graders in Birmingham City Schools that improves children’s ability to read.

* STAIR has 12 sites (schools and churches) where children come two times per week for two hours during the school year.
* Volunteer tutors are paired with one child so that each child will have the same two tutors for the school year.
* STAIR furnishes the children and volunteer tutors with all the material they need, including lesson plans and workbooks.
* STAIR has training classes for the volunteers.
* Students who graduate from STAIR consistently show an average rate of improvement of over 90% on the standardized tests given by the schools.

**OPPORTUNITY**: HUMC and St. Mary’s are collaborating to establish a STAIR site at Avondale School for 3rd graders. STAIR has a program for 2nd graders at Avondale Methodist Church, but identified a need for a program aimed at Avondale 3rd graders, which includes children who live at Southtown. ***Twenty slots are available for tutors to come once per week for 2 hours during the school year (August 2017 through May 2018). This would allow us to serve 10 third-graders.***

* Volunteers should be freshmen in High School or older to volunteer. Students under 19 must have a parent or guardian sign a consent form.
* Volunteer Commitment:
  + Attend one 2-hour training class conducted by STAIR
  + Observe with another tutor one afternoon before being paired with a student.
  + Tutor a student one afternoon a week, committing to a 2-hour timeframe (following the Birmingham City Schools calendar). Substitute tutors are available if you cannot attend certain sessions during the year.
  + Pass a background check.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** To start the Avondale third-grade program in August, 2017, we need at least twenty volunteers. If interested, please sign the attached sheet or email Kathleen Kauffman ([kathleendk@outlook.com](mailto:kathleendk@outlook.com)) or Danielle Thompson (xdanielle@stmarysoth.org) with the requested information by June 15, 2017.

YES – I AM INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE HUMC/ST. MARY’S STAIR PROGRAM AT AVONDALE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2017-2018

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name:

Organization (HUMC, St. Mary’s, other):

Email:

Phone:

Under Age 19?

**AVAILABILITY**

When establishing the program, we will pick two days of the week to schedule for tutoring throughout the school year. For planning purposes, which days of the week are you available to tutor?

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

**NEXT STEPS**

* Check out the STAIR website (Stairbirmingham.org) to learn more about the STAIR program.
* We will send additional information to you as the program is developed.
* STAIR will conduct training sessions for HUMC/St. Mary’s volunteers sometime in July – closer to the time school begins.